8. Supporting programmes of Institution and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic indetification reference Mannual for tiger parts and products.

9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco development of the Areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

International Level

1. Initiate creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Tigher Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:—

(i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.

(ii) An MOU with His Majestiy's Government of Nepal has been signed.

(iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.

3.Several resolution at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.

4. A Millennium Conference on Conservation of Tiger was held in March, 1999.

Degradation of Forests

1716. SHRI ANANTHA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of growing degradation of forests in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken for proper preservation of forest wealth; and

(d) the State-wise details of programmes drawn up thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for degradation of forests in the country are wide gap in demand and supply of forest produce, unsustainable

withdrawals from forests, forest fires, diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes and lack of required investments in the forestry sector.

(c) The major steps taken for proper preservation and development of forest wealth are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources, with financial assistance from Government of India and through external aid.

(ii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(iv) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(v) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

(d) The state-wise afforestation targets under 20 Point Programme for the year 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise afforestation targets for the year 1999-2000

Name of State/UT	Seedling Distribution targets for plantation on private lands (In Lakhs)	Afforestation targets for public lands including forests lands (In hectares)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	2000	150000
Arunachal Pradesh	7	10000

1	2	3
Assam	25	27000
Bihar	500	40000
Goa	10	600
Gujarat	1900	70000
Haryana	200	32000
Himachal Pradesh	20	30000
Jammu & Kashmir	60	24000
Karnataka	500	90000
Kerala	180	19000
Madhya Pradesh	450	150000
Maharashtra	1150	126000
Manipur	25	12000
Meghalya	40	18000
Mizoram	22	19800
Nagaland	60	8000
Orissa	300	87000
Punjab	52	20000
Rajasthan	400	85000
Sikkim	22	11000
Tamil Nadu	1100	120000
Tripura	40	10000
Uttar Pradesh	2200	110000
West Bengal	825	44000
A & N Islands	2	3500
Chandigarh	0.10	100
D & N Haveli	5	300

1	2	3
Daman & Diu	0.25	30
Delhi	25	1000
Lakshadweep	5	75
Pondicherry	5	75
TOTAL	12130.35	1318480

Environmental clearance to Mumbai-Nasik Expressway

1717. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has submitted proposals for environmental clearance of Mumbai-Nasik and Mumbai-Talsyri expressways; and

(b) if so, why the proposals have not been cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A decision on the proposals of Mumbai-Nasik and Mumbai-Talasari Expressways could not be taken for want of complete information/clarifications on various related issues particularly flora and fauna.

Construction of Jamrani Dam on Gola River

†1718. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after approval for construction of Jamrani Dam on Gola River in Nainital district of Uttar Pradesh, its barrage and canals had been constructed;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.